



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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A. P. S. Unit 18

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JULY/AUGUST 1993

No. 4, Whole No. 520

ELECTION RESULTS

Ludvik Z. Svoboda has been reelected president of the S.C.P. for his second term at a Board meeting held at the home of Mirko Vondra in Lancaster, PA. Henry Hahn and Jaroslav Verner tied for the office of Vice President. The Board agreed Hahn will be Vice President for the first year of a two-year term; Verner for the second year. Edwin Leheckas was reelected as treasurer. Tom Cossaboom was named secretary.

The Board expressed its thanks and appreciation to the retiring Jane Sterba for her many years of untiring service as secretary. A former president, Mrs. Sterba has been a household name to many who see her regularly at stamp shows and philatelic meetings.

In the general membership election, the following five members were elected to the Board of Directors: Mirko Vondra, Ludvik Svoboda, Henry Hahn, Dr. Charles Bush and Tom Cossaboom. Of those five, Dr. Bush is a newcomer to the Board. Vladimir Bubak withdrew for personal reasons.

The Board also named Tom Austin, member no. 857, of Costa Rica, as an honorary member. Congratulations, Tom! Your expertise and devotion to the Society has earned you the members' gratitude.

The Board along with the Editorial Staff of the SPECIALIST wishes to express its sorrow and extend its condolences to Henry Hahn, its Foreign Editor and APS Representative, on the demise of his 94 year old mother who passed away on June 23.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

Society members who plan on exhibiting at FLOREX 93 are requested to mail in their applications and check to our member, J. E. Evan, P.O. Box 2533, Clearwater, FL. 34617 instead of to James Estes as shown on the application that was enclosed in the centerfold of our May/June issue.

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are fully entitled:

1. A sales and exchange circuit is operated by H. Allan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/ Sept. 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Street, Norcross, GA 30092.
2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.
3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. A complete write-up including contents of the library last appeared in the June 1989 SPECIALIST, page 10. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Dick Palaschak, 113 Joyes Lane, Dover, NJ 07801.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Charles Chesloe. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.
5. Stamp auctions are currently conducted through Tribuna Stamp Co., in Chicago and ads announcing forthcoming auctions appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For catalogs and bid forms or for information on submission of philatelic material for future auctions, contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.
6. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, translating articles from Czech to English, advertising rates and bound copies, contact Mirko Vondra, editor, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

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EMMA DESTINN - POSTLUDE

by Gerald M. Van Zanten

"I admire giants - but of their victory I am not jealous."

--Emma Destinn

This is the third article on Emma Destinn in the SPECIALIST. The first, written by Ladislav Kropač, appeared in the January 1965 issue; the second in the October 1988 issue was by the present writer. Some further information which may be of interest to our readers has since come my way. As only about thirty of our current readers will have seen the Kropač article, I am using his article as a basis for this one.

Emma Destinn hails from an interesting family. Her grandfather originally came to Prague as a brewing apprentice. Through his diligence, industry and thrift, he soon gained much wealth. Emma's father, though a *bon vivant*, gave large sums of money to cultural aims and assisted artists as well as educational organizations. With a background like that of Emma - then still Emma Kittle - she moved around the brilliant society of young artists, mainly writers and musicians.

Her early training as a singer was by the excellent husband-wife team of Loewe and Marie von Dregerová-Destinnová. After five years of study, Emma emerged as a promising singer and adopted the name of her teacher-Destinn.

In the early years of her career she met with several reverses. Even the National Theatre in Prague failed to accept her, as did the Dresden Opera. It was the Berlin Opera where she met her first success in 1898 at the age of just 20. It was Berlin where she gained her greatest triumphs in future years.

In 1902 she appeared at Covent Garden with Melba, Caruso and others. Emma sang Cio-Cio-San in the London premiere of *Madam Butterfly* in 1905, also with Melba. Her love duets with Caruso helped the hypnotized first-night audience to forget her sturdiness as a fifteen-year-old geisha at the age of 27.

On November 16, 1908 she made her American debut with Caruso (Toscanini conducting) for the opening performance of *Aida*. Two months later, with Gustav Mahler conducting, she sang the lead in "The Bartered Bride" at the Metropolitan Opera. Here now follows the report from the New York Daily Tribune of February 20, 1909.

"THE BARTERED BRIDE" shown in America for the first time. And the performance? Mr. Mahler is a Bohemian (born in Kalište, 7 July 1860; died Vienna, May 18-1922). Miss Destinn is a daughter of Bohemia's capital. The dancers were brought from the National Theatre at Prague, the home of Czech music. They are to the Bohemian manner born..... Altogether, it was an evening of unalloyed delight, and the opera and its production were a most unqualified and pronounced success".

The illustration shows Emma Destinn taken in Berlin in the same year 1909; it also features her signature. (see Fig. 1)

On Sunday afternoon June 29, 1913 at 3:30 PM Emma appeared at Royal Albert Hall in London, England. The program cover for that day is shown in Fig. 2.

World War I saw her imprisoned in her own castle under the then still Austrian regime. It is said



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

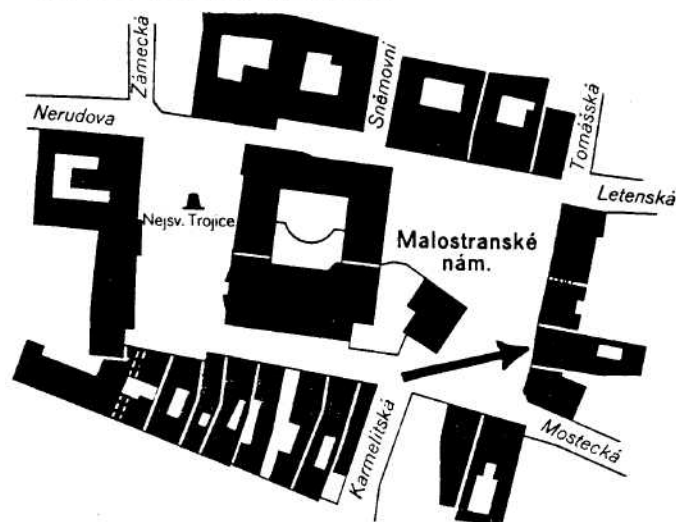


FIG. 3

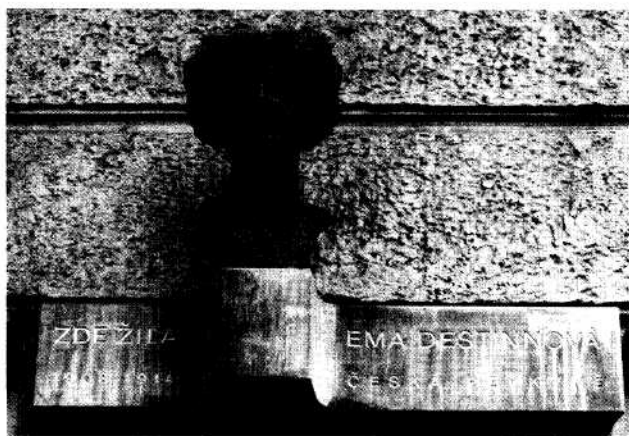


FIG. 4



FIG. 5a



FIG. 5b

from a ten-subject plate. There are three different types of this stamp as shown in my previous article. A 60h stamp issued as part of the set on the same day pictured Prague's National Theater where she sang just prior to and during World War I. (see Fig. 5a and 5b).

that Caruso grieved for her at that time. A prisoner with only her cats and a collection of antique treasures and books for her comfort, she bemoaned her own fate. Worst still, her passport had been impounded by the Austrian authorities after she publicly announced her intention to return to New York and take out first citizenship papers.

On the facade of the Kaiserstein Palace on Malostranské Náměstí (Lesser Town Square), indicated on Fig. 3 by an arrow, appears a bust of Emma Destinn, its photo taken in 1988 by the writer. (see Fig. 4). This palace was owned by Emma from 1907. The Emma Destinn Memorial Hall in this palace is open to the public. The palace originated from two adjoining buildings as early as the 15th century. The Gothic cellars have been preserved to this day.

Emma sang just for the joy of singing, not necessarily because it was important for her career. She sang at benefit concerts and other similar occasions. Remuneration was not important to her, neither were her accompanying pianists, of whom there were many. With her romantic inclinations, she liked to sing music by such composers as Grieg, Jensen and Tchaikovsky. Songs and composers she liked best were

Schubert, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn as well as Smetana and Dvořák.

The SLAVIN is a monument in the National cemetery, surmounted by an allegorical winged figure. Built as a tribute to the men and women who devoted their lives to the cultural advancement of their nation, it is Emma's last resting place. The text on the monument reads: "AČ ZEMŘELI, JEŠTĚ MLUVÍ..." "ALTHOUGH THEY ARE DEAD, THEY STILL SPEAK!!!" A 30h stamp honoring her and designed by Karel Svoboda was issued on Nov. 18, 1953

STATISTICS ON FIELD POST IN GREAT BRITAIN

by *Vladimír J. Králíček*

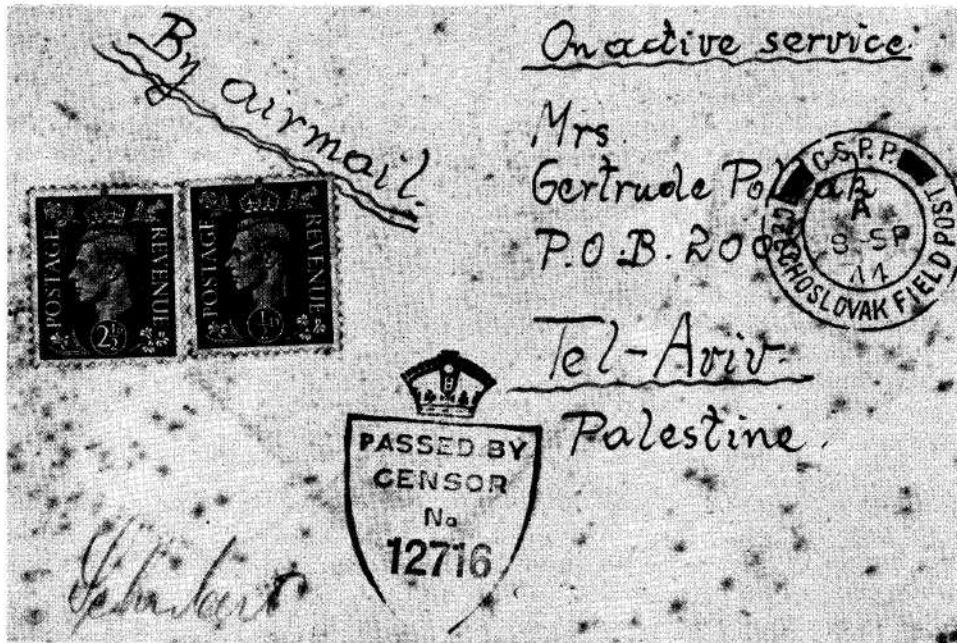


Fig. 1

Many articles have been written on the subject of Czechoslovak Army Field Post in Great Britain during World War II. In very few of these, if any, are there any references to the actual number of letters and other postal matter actually processed by the Field postoffice or the number of parcels and covers cancelled with commemorative or special postmarks. In my collection I have a couple of items that may shed some light on these elusive statistics. (see Fig. 1)

The first item is a cut-out from New York's Czech-language newspaper, *New Yorkské Listy*, dated Thursday, February 18, 1943. Unfortunately this particular newspaper (vol. LXIX, no. 55) is so old, discolored and deteriorated, it was impossible to reproduce. Since the article is in Czech, I am pleased to submit my translation of it as follows:

"The Czechoslovak Fieldpost Activity in Great Britain"

"Montreal, Feb. 16 (ČTK)-During 1942 the Czechoslovak Forces' field post in Great Britain has delivered 446,000 pieces of ordinary correspondence articles, 13,043 parcels, 10,351 registered letters and 3,811 telegrams. (see Fig. 1) In addition, many thousands of Service telegrams, letters, orders, etc. were transmitted. Our soldiers in Great Britain have sent through the Czechoslovak Forces' field post 618,000 letters, 9,130 registered and money letters, 7,390 parcels, 1,100 telegrams as well as Armed Services mail, announcements and various publications. The field post drivers have travelled 37,554 miles in the service of the Czechoslovak fieldpost without a single accident even though they encountered all kinds of weather, drove during winter months and also during blackouts. The above statistics apply for the year 1942 while the Czechoslovak Forces were still forming and before the Czechoslovak Army contingent active in the Middle East was recalled to Great Britain halfway through 1943. Also the Czechoslovak Air Force personnel were using the British Forces' fieldpost facilities and were therefore not included in the above totals."

During this time the *New Yorkské Listy*, under the leadership of its colorful and dynamic

editor, Karel Leitner, carried a slogan in its byline which, translated, read: "For a democratic America and a free Czechoslovakia".

The second item is a copy of a letter from Capt. O. Večerek, head of the Czechoslovak Army Fieldpost, to Dr. Eduard Beneš, President of the Czechoslovak Government in Exile. Translated, it reads as follows:

"Honorable Mr. President:

"We have just finished using the special March 15 mourning postmark issued by the Czechoslovak Fieldpost to commemorate the third anniversary of the vain sacrifice by our nation to the insatiable German Moloch. Altogether 12,533 parcels of mail were delivered to England and destinations overseas, a quantity of which our soldiers retained for their loved ones at home.

"The 15th of March has shocked not only all Czechoslovaks*, but also public opinion throughout the entire world. Soon thereafter, a wave of renewed hope in its resurgence swept the nation when we learned that as our esteemed President, you had accepted the leadership of our resistance movement abroad and formally proclaimed your strong opposition to Nazism. With the above postmark, we had intended to remind the free world of our country's self-denial and sacrifice in the name of peace and at the same time to restore faith in our own ranks that once the suffering of Calvary has passed, our nation will rise again if each of us fulfills his or her assigned tasks.

"We thank you cordially for your letter of March 19 and we wish you a Happy Easter."

The above information should assist stamp collectors as well as others in understanding the huge task the Czechoslovak Fieldpost carried out in maintaining its fieldpost services in a country other than their own under wartime conditions.

**March 15, 1939 is the day Hitler's Germany violated the infamous Munich Accords and invaded what remained of Czechoslovakia after the Munich dismemberment.*

INTERNATIONAL MAIL RATES DURING THE MID-WAR YEARS

by Stig Asklund

An easily understood postage rate schedule is a must for the serious collector. In the March/April 1993 issue of the Specialist a schedule was presented, which however needs a supplementary comment regarding the international mail rates for the mid-war years. For a certain period domestic rates were applicable; for another period reduced rates were applicable. These rates were in effect for a limited number of countries.

I submit two illustrations and a postage rate schedule, and I hope the reader will find this useful.

This registered postcard was sent from Plzeň to Yugoslavia and postmarked 13th January 1920. There is a Yugoslav censor mark and arrival cancellation (Sarajevo). (See Fig. 1)

The "normal" fee for an international postcard was 20h during the period 15th May 1919 to 14th March 1920. However, for Yugoslavia the domestic rate of 15h was applicable. The registration fee was 50h, and the correct rate for this postcard was thus 65h.

Overprinted "Pošta Československá 1919" stamps were not to be used on foreign mail. Maybe the domestic rate for Yugoslavia also meant that "domestic" stamps could be used?

This letter was sent to Germany in March 1932. A reduced postage rate was applicable from 1st January 1922 to 15th March 1939. Thus the meter stamp shows the rate Kč 2.00, instead of the "normal" international rate of Kč 2.50. (See Fig. 2)

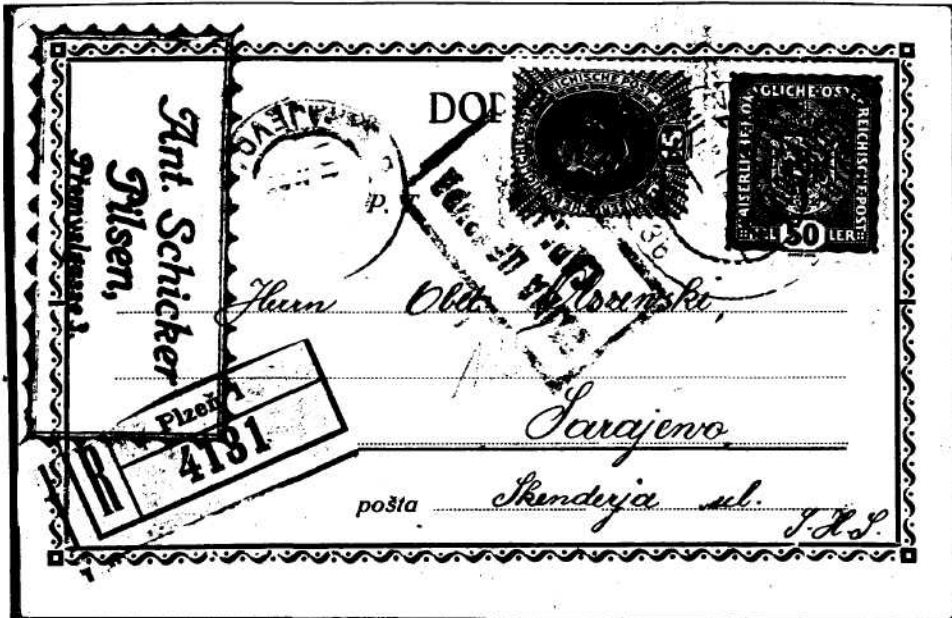


Fig. 1

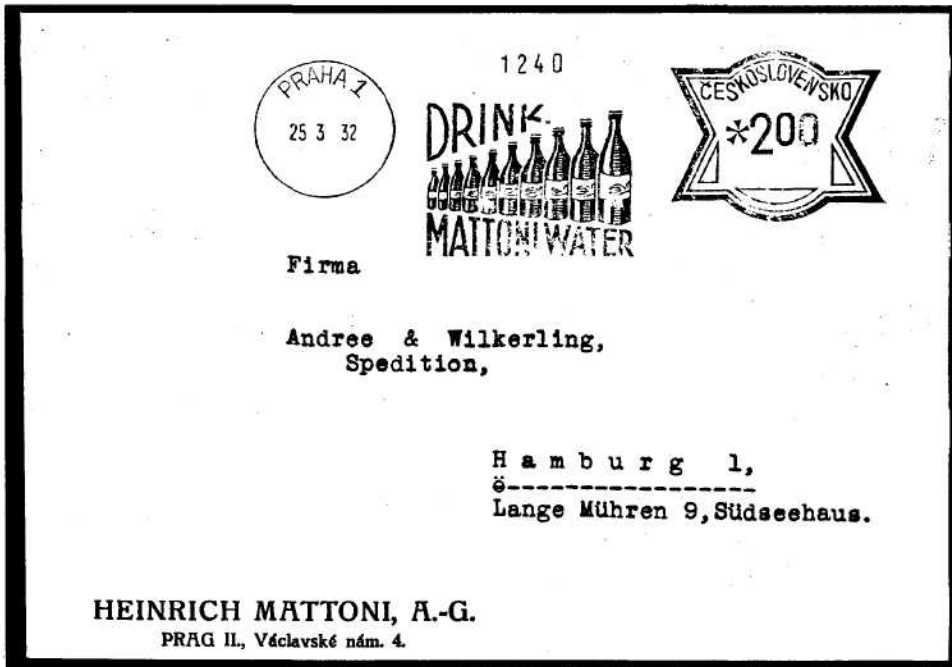


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Time period	Domestic Rates		International rates	
	Postcard	Letter	Postcard	Letter
29 Oct 1918- 14 May 1919 No privileged rates existed during this period.	10h	20h	10h	25h
15 May 1919- 14 March 1920 The domestic rates were applicable for international mail to * Austria * Germany * Hungary * Yugoslavia * Poland * Ukraine	15h	25h	20h	50h
15 March 1920- 31 July 1920	20h	30h	20h	50h
1 August 1920- 31 Dec 1921 No privileged rates existed during these two periods.	40h	60h	50h	1.25Kč
1 January 1922- 15 March 1939	50h	1.00Kč	1.50 Kč	2.50Kč
			REDUCED rates:	
			1.20Kč	2.00Kč

The above reduced rates were applicable for international mail as follows:

The whole period: * Austria * Germany * Hungary * Poland

Part of the period: 1 April 1922-31 Dec 1927: * Italy

13 April 1922-15 March 1939: * Romania

1 April 1934-15 March 1939: * Yugoslavia

1 April 1937-15 March 1939: * Greece * Danzig * Turkey

The registration fee was Kč 2,50 during this period, for some countries it was reduced to Kč 2.00 from 1st April 1937 up to 15th March 1939, namely: * Greece * Danzig * Turkey * Yugoslavia.

NB All the above letter rates are for the 1-20 gram class.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE SPECIALIST

Amount of Space	One Issue	Three Issues	Six Issues	Ten Issues
Full Page	\$35.00	\$90.00	\$160.00	\$250.00
Half Page	20.00	50.00	90.00	140.00
Quarter Page	12.00	30.00	50.00	80.00
Eighth Page	8.00	20.00	35.00	55.00
Sixteenth Page				
(4 lines across page)	5.00	13.00	25.00	38.00
Thirty-second page				
(2 lines across page)	3.00	8.00	15.00	23.00

1. All amounts are total cost.
2. Discount of 20% to members only, if they so desire.
3. Submit your ad double spaced and typed or legibly printed.
4. It is the advertiser's responsibility that his or her copy is correct (proper spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, etc.) since the ad will be printed exactly as it is received—in other words "as is".
5. Make your check payable to: "Society for Czechoslovak Philately."
6. Send your copy and payment to: Mirko Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

MORE ON SLOVAKIA

With the advent of the new Republic of Slovakia, an abundance of philatelic material is beginning to surface from various sources. One such source is our good friend and member, Joseph Lacko. Thanks to his contacts, he has provided us with the following:

sielateľ:



VYHLÁSENIE
DEKLARÁCIE
O ZVRCHOVANOSTI
SLOVENSKEJ
REPUBLIKY

17. 7. 1992



PAŇ

IGOR BANAS

MOTZESOVA 18



Odosielateľ:



PRÍJATIE
USTAVY
SLOVENSKEJ
REPUBLIKY

1. 9. 1992



PAŇ

IGOR BANAS

MOTZESOVA 18

NITRA



Fig. 1

Fig. 1 - Two postal stationary cards of Czechoslovakia showing the 50h imprint of Bratislava, each with the "3" denomination Slovakia no. 1. The first card is labelled "Proclamation Declaring Slovak Independence - July 17, 1992." The second card states "Adoption of Slovak Constitution - Sept. 1, 1992." Both cards were mailed from Bratislava to Nitra on Jan. 2, 1993.

Fig. 2 - A commemorative sheet honors the election of Slovakia's First President. At the top is a border outline of the new Republic with the three towers of Bratislava Castle crowning the official state shield. In the center is a block of four of the "2" denomination stamp showing President Michal Kováč. Below that is a special cancellation with the text "Presidential Inauguration, Bratislava, March 2, 1993."

Fig. 3 - Cover sent Registered Airmail from Bratislava with mixed franking and a special cancellation on Jan. 1, 1993. Back-stamped at Nitra on Jan. 4, 1993.

Fig. 4 - Two covers sent Registered Airmail from Nitra to Union City, N.J. with mixed franking. The first cover bears a special rectangular rubber-stamp cachet which translates to

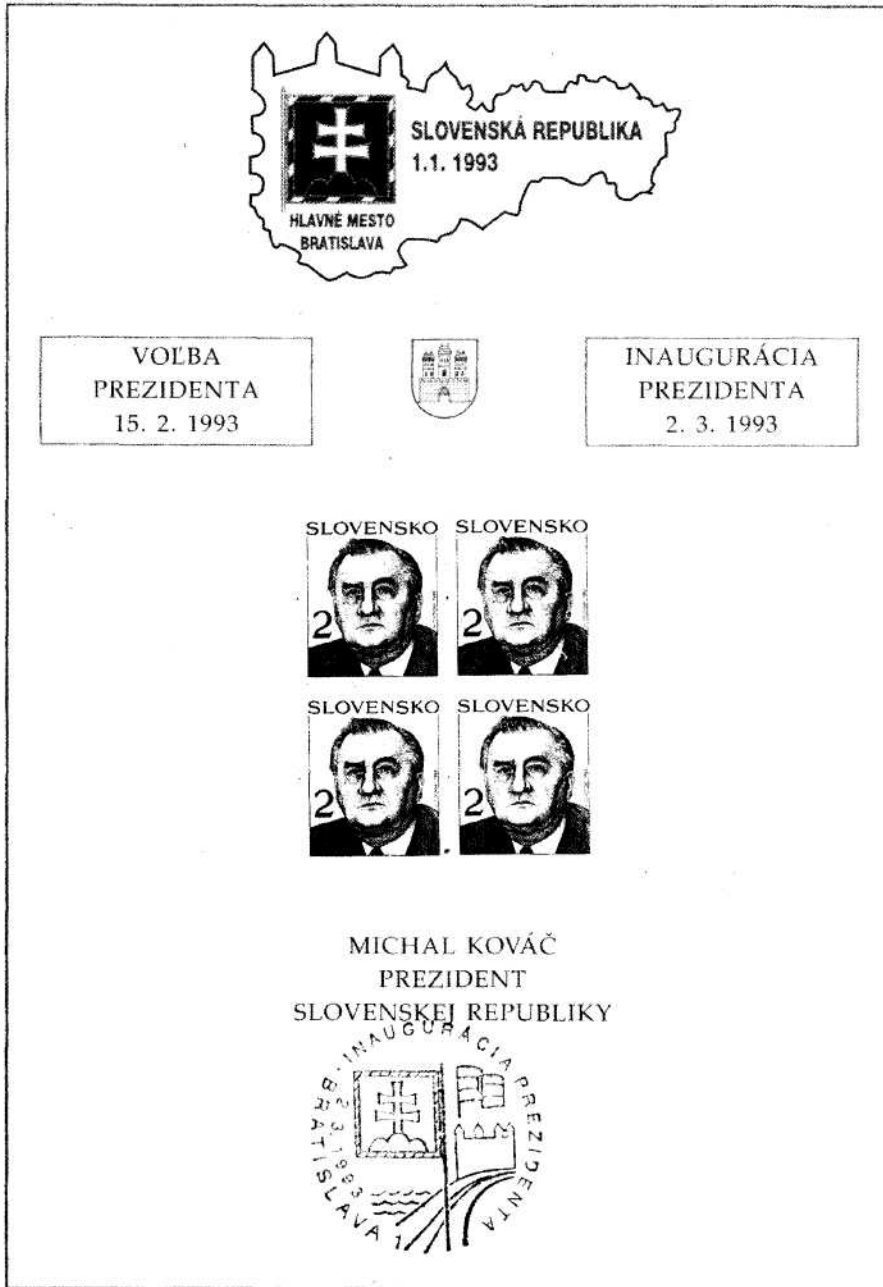


Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Odosielateľ:
J. Paško
 919 st. Dobrá Voda
 pri Trnave
 Slovakia

PAR AVION
 LETECKY



Miro Vondra
 1511 Clearview Av

Fig. 5

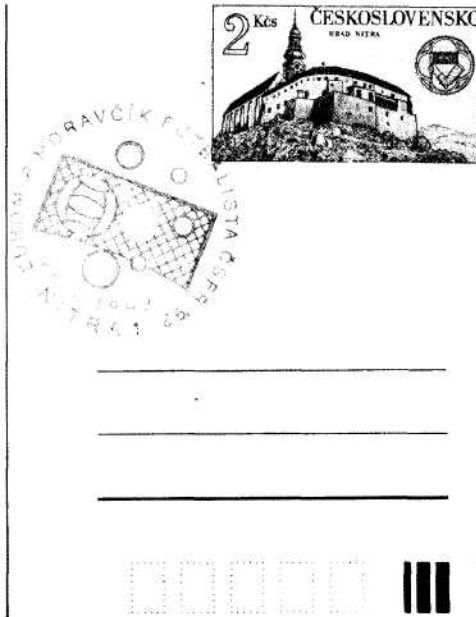


Fig. 6

"Election of President of the Slovak Republic" and which was cancelled on Jan. 27, 1993.

Fig. 5 - Postal card with imprinted 2 kčs stamp showing Křivan beneath a hyphenated "Česko-slovensko" - one of the last such cards issued by the former Czechoslovakia. Sent from Slovakia to the U.S. on May 7, 1993, a 4kčs. Křivan unhyphenated stamp of the former Republic of Czechoslovakia was added and cancelled at Dobrá Voda Pfi Trnavě postoffice.

Fig. 6 - Postcard with a 2 kčs stamp of former Czechoslovakia shows the Castle at Nitra with a special cancellation bearing the text "Lubomir Moravčík, football player of CSFR 1992 - Nitra 1, Feb. 28, 1993." Pictured is the player himself who starred with St. Etienne, a professional club in France, where he was voted the year's most valuable foreign player.



MÚZEUM MODERNÉHO UMENIA
 RODINY WARHOLOVCOV
 MEDZILABORCE
 KF 52-51 NITRA / 8 - 1993

Fig. 7



Fig. 8

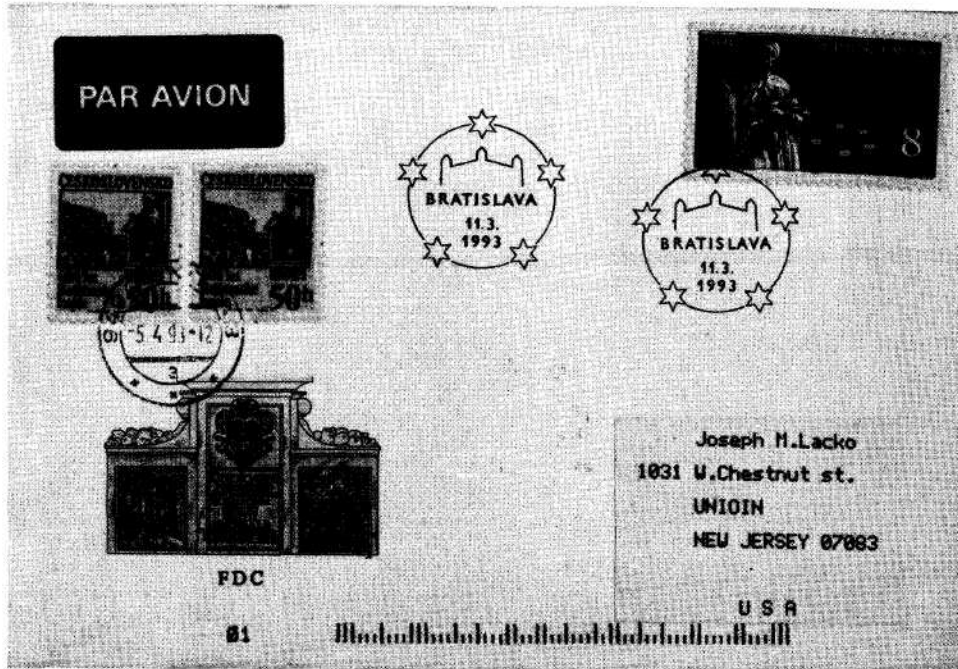


Fig. 9

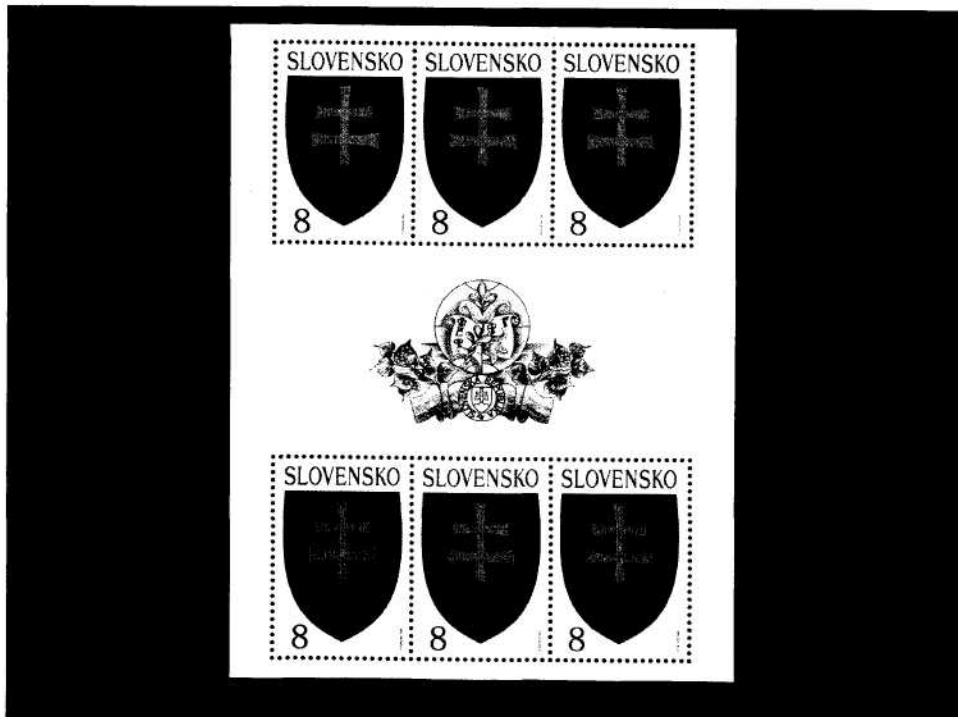


Fig. 10

Fig. 7 - An unusual card stamped at Medzilaborce with meter cancel advertising the opening of the Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaboriec. The cancel is dated Feb. 25, 1993, and still bears the name "Československo" because Slovak meters had not yet been converted to show the name of the new nation.

Fig. 8 - The 8kčs. stamp issued by former Czechoslovakia on May 20, 1991 (see Sept/Oct 1991 SPECIALIST, page 8), was specially cancelled on April 3, 1993. The translated text reads: "First Slovakian North Polar Expedition-Bratislava 1." The reverse side shows a 1kčs. floral stamp of former Czechoslovakia affixed and cancelled at Bratislava on April 3.

Fig. 9 - Three countries honored St. John of Nepomuk on March 3, 1993 (see May-June SPECIALIST, Page 22). Slovakia's version is shown here with its denomination "8" on an FDC cover with the three-tower castle of Bratislava shown on a special cancellation. Sent from Nitra to New Jersey on April 5, 1993, the cover had two 50h stamps of former Czechoslovakia added for postage.

Fig. 10 - Besides the denomination "3" shown in Fig. 1, the denomination "8" comprises the second stamp of this set known as Slovakia nos. 1 and 2 (see Mar/Apr SPECIALIST, page 16). But where the "3" denomination was printed in sheets of fifty, the "8" appears in a lovely miniature sheet of six stamps illustrated here.

TWO VIEWS OF POLSKA 93

I. Report by Henry Hahn

POLSKA '93 - FIP sponsored world philatelic exposition took place in Poznan, Poland from May 7 through May 16th.

Being "next door" to the Czech and Slovak Republics, participation by Czechs and Slovaks was expected to be high. In fact, such participation did not materialize. Less than a dozen Czechs and Slovaks appeared. This despite the fact that POLSKA '93 took place only a few days after our German fellow-society, the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Tschechoslowakei (BundesArge) met at Pisek, Bohemia, a lovely town south of Prague. Attendance at Pisek numbered about sixty (60), including mostly German and Czech collectors, with a scattering of others.



Fig. 1

Despite poor attendance at POLSKA '93, a much better showing was made by the number and quality of the exhibits of Czecho and related fields. A complete listing of Czecho-related exhibits, together with awards and point ratings appears at the end of this article.

Just as the participation by Czechs and Slovaks, attendance by Americans was surprisingly poor even though about sixty exhibits were entered by American collectors, of which at least three were Czecho or Czecho-related.

The show took place at a large, modern facility, most frequently used for trade fairs. POLSKA '93 occupied only a fraction of the buildings, with the rest housing a much larger truck and car show. As a result, the "philatelic atmosphere" one encounters at many FIP sponsored shows was somewhat reduced. Building #12 with its POLSKA 93 sign, which housed most of the non-competitive exhibits and represented the focal point of the show appears in Fig. 1. Building #24, which contained most Czecho exhibits is a large structure with plenty of viewing space, comfortable resting facilities, and apparently good professional security. Unfortunately, the cruel sun bore down quite intensely on many of the exhibits, necessitating that part of the time brown paper had to be hung over those frames adjacent to the large glass



Fig. 2

The Palmares took place at the Hotel Poznan and was close to a culinary triumph. Those tables furthest from the podium enjoyed the superb cuisine to the hilt, largely undisturbed by the proceeding which were mostly in Polish and almost inaudible. At \$80 per person, with superb service, and a relatively short official program and award ceremony, who could ask for more? Our group, looking well satisfied, was photographed by our waiter (see Fig.2). It includes, seated from left to right: Mrs. Helm, Bedřich Helm and Jan Karásek. Standing, from left to right: Pavel Pittermann, Morris Rosen, the author, his granddaughter, Jessica Thornton, and Marilyn Hahn.

The single, most negative aspect appeared to be POLSKA's jury. Much smaller than that assembled for PRAGA '88, the POLSKA jury included not a single judge or individual able to judge Czechoslovakia. The sole Czech jury member served as jury Secretary, and hence did not participate in actual judging. The problem was exacerbated when the jury section chairman, responsible for judging Czechoslovakia material summoned two well-known Czech experts to solicit their "judgment" on the exhibition floor. While consultation by the jury with experts is not uncommon and allowable, one of the Czech experts thus consulted was himself in competition!

It is becoming increasingly apparent to many exhibitors that jury selection for FIP shows is dominated by cronyism and that there appears to be little matching of expertise with the exhibits to be judged. It is doubtful that this will change under the present FIP jury selection procedures.

The table below is based on the Palmares program and may contain some omissions. Some exhibits were misclassified and shown in the incorrect category. This was to have been corrected by the jury, and the table is based on our best guess as to the correct category. We sincerely apologize for any errors and omissions.

<u>Czechoslovakia</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Country Represented</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Points</u>
Johan L. Klein	Netherlands	Gold + SP	93
Henry Hahn	USA	Large Vermeil	88
Vladimir Cermak	Germany	Vermeil	83
George Stupka	Czech Republic	Vermeil	80
Frantisek Hutyra	Czech Republic	Large Silver	79
Zdenek Molis	Czech Republic	Large Silver	77
Karel Fisher	Canada	Large Silver	76
Ernst George	United Kingdom	Large Silver	76
Charles J. Chesloe	USA	Large Silver	75
Svatopluk Sablatura	Czech Republic	Large Silver	75

walls or windows. The frames most severely exposed to the intense sunlight were some fine classical Austria exhibits; the Czech ones, being further inside the building, suffered only partially.

A very positive aspect of POLSKA '93 were the good and plentiful accommodations. Prior reservations turned out to be largely unnecessary. Prices in Poznan were still quite reasonable, compared to Prague. Poland is THE place to become an instantaneous millionaire; at 16,000+ Zlotys to the dollar, it takes all of about \$62 to have that million. Poznan is a city well worth seeing; historic, culturally prominent, and friendly. Visits to Warsaw and Krakau were extremely rewarding, though a drive through some rural areas was an eye opener to the economic difficulties Poland is experiencing.

Stig Asklund	Sweden	Silver	73
<u>Czechoslovakia Air Mail</u>			
Jan Karasek	Czech Republic	Gold	90
Bedrich Helm	Czech Republic	Large Vermeil	87
<u>Czechoslovakia Postal History</u>			
Johan L. Klein	Netherlands	Large Gold	95
Paul H. Jensen	Norway	Gold + SP	93
Joseph F. Cervený	USA	Silver	73

II. Report by W.A. Page, FRPS, L.

(Ed. note: W. A Page is on the staff of CZECHOUT, The Official Journal of the Czechoslovak Society of Great Britain)

The World Philatelic Exhibition "POLSKA '93" was officially opened by the President of the Republic Lech Walesa at an open air ceremony on the steps of the central block of the large Poznan Trade Fair complex on May 7th with the customary speeches of welcome. Organized by the Polish Philatelic Federation, the Polish Ministry of Communications and the Polish Post under the patronage of F.I.P., it marked the 100th anniversary of the Polish Philatelic Organization.

With over 70 countries providing the 800 or so exhibits, coverage included every branch of the hobby, mostly in units of six frames each comprising 16 sheets.

Our own Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain was well represented with nearly a dozen exhibits. As with all major exhibitions reports cannot do justice to the depth of study and the wealth of material displayed - it just has to be seen! However, the quality of the exhibits is recognized in the level of awards granted.

The following summarises those exhibits from our members, and others with Czechoslovak interest, and their respective awards.

Heading the list is our British Society's Netherlands member Johan Klein with two exhibits, one covering the stamps of the first Republican period with emphasis on the elusive and unusual which gained him a Gold award. The other, entitled "Postal History of the Kingdom of Bohemia", described as using the "Paul Jensen system" also included a selection of 18th/19th century field post entires, and was awarded a large Gold. (Paul Jensen RDP., FRPS, L is one of the foremost authorities on the early postal history of the Czech lands and a holder of many International awards)

Our British Society's Honorary member Jan Karasek who was the Czech Republic Commissioner, provided a comprehensive display of the development of the airmails 1920-1939, with studies of the three stamp issues and their usage, the latter including a number of first flight covers. This earned him a Gold award.

Foreign Department Editor of the SPECIALIST, Henry Hahn, tops the list of the other award winning entries with a Large Vermeil for his display of the first Republic with a specialized selection of many of the "difficult" items and rarities.

For the Beginner

MORE ON SOUVENIR SHEETS

The Communist era began in 1948. President Beneš had died that year after resigning his post. In his honor, the Red Regime allowed a single mourning stamp to be issued - a somewhat nondescript engraving of his profile. Exactly thirty days later - on Oct. 28, 1949-the government honored its first Communist President - Klement Gottwald - with a five-stamp set, each of a different color and denomination. As if that were not enough, a rash of other stamps showing Gottwald emerged, including a souvenir sheet issued Nov. 23 on his 52nd birthday. The 30k sheet was designed by K. Svolinsky and shows the presidential flag at the top, a likeness of Gottwald in the center and one of many Communist slogans at the bottom. (Scott #367, Fig. 1).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Less than a month later, Communist Czechoslovakia issued a second souvenir sheet commemorating the 30th anniversary of its first postage stamp. Though the stamp portion of the sheet was reprinted from the original 5h Hradčany designed by Alfons Mucha, the sheet bore the denomination "10" and was in blue color. (Scott #368, Fig. 2).

In 1950 the Prague Philatelic Exhibition inspired the issuance of another souvenir sheet which was printed at the Exhibit Hall and was available at face value (6k) in exchange for a visitor's ticket to the show. It contains four stamps, each of 1.50k value, each showing a view of the construction of Stefanik Bridge in the foreground and the Prague Castle in the background. (Scott #426a, Fig. 3).

The Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition of 1952 also merited a souvenir sheet, the first one by the Communist regime issued perforated. The sheet comprises two stamps - a 2k and a 3k - showing statues of a Bulgarian partisan and an allegorical figure (Scott #556, Fig. 4).

This was followed by another Klement Gottwald souvenir sheet mourning his death on March 1953. It shows his portrait, a denomination of "5" and a typical slogan, all in black. (Scott #586, Fig. 5).

Enter a new President, Antonin Zápotocký, and a new souvenir sheet appeared honoring his 70th birthday. Issued in Dec. 1954, it shows his portrait in a 2kčs stamp with Bohemia's coat-of-arms at the top and a hand-written slogan at the bottom. (Scott #678, Fig. 6).

An International Philatelic Exhibition took place in Prague in 1955. A souvenir sheet showing five stamps was issued both perforated and imperf in September of that year. The 30h shows the rotunda of the Holy Cross Chapel, the 45h shows the Old Town Bridge Tower, the 60h features the Singing Fountain, the 75h pictures the Hibernia House and the 1.60k shows Charles Bridge with Hradčany in the background. (Scott #719, Fig. 7).

When President Zápotocký died in Nov. 1957, the regime could not resist issuing a souvenir sheet in his honor as it had done in Gottwald's case. A simple sheet showing a single 2 kčs. stamp with his portrait in black is listed as Scott #831 (Fig. 8).

Back to stamp shows, Prague was the site of the 1962 World Stamp Exhibition. Known as PRAGA 62, it had the dubious distinction of having not only a souvenir sheet to publicize it,



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 9



Fig. 7



Fig. 10



Fig. 8



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

but also a miniature sheet and an embossed stamp on a cover as an item of postal stationery. This embossed stamp was all in blue and in a value of 60h. The souvenir sheet, issued both perforated and imperf, bore the same stamp but in multi-color and in value of 5kčs. (Scott #1134. Fig. 9). the miniature sheet consisted of two stamps - 30h and 60h, - each stamp repeated four times.

At this point, space exploration broke the barrier with the appearance of the country's first



Fig. 13

space souvenir sheet. Issued on the occasion of the First Space Research Exhibition in Prague in April 1963, it was part of a set comprising six stamps plus the sheet, with the sheet having the highest denomination, ie. 3kčs. (Scott #1175).

Next came a rather uninspiring sheet bearing a sketch of Prague Castle to commemorate the founding of the city of Prague by Borivoj in the second half of the 9th century. It has a 5kčs. value and is in single color, deep claret. (Scott #1257, Fig. 10).

That same year, in Nov. 1964, another space probe prompted the issuance of a miniature sheet (as opposed to a souvenir sheet) with a single stamp having a value of 3kčs. (Scott #1264).

On March 21, 1966, a souvenir sheet commemorating the centennial of the first performance of Smetana's comic opera "The Bartered Bride" was released, much to the gratification of music topical collectors (Scott #1373, Fig. 11).

In May of that same year, a set of two stamps plus a souvenir sheet were printed to honor Prague Castle. The sheet features a 5kčs stamp showing the coronation crown of Přemysl Vratislav II, the first Bohemian ruler raised to the rank of King in 1086 AD. (Scott #1390, Fig. 12).

The Brno Philatelic Exhibition in 1966 sponsored by the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists brought forth yet another souvenir sheet in Sept. of that year. This sheet, coupled with three stamps, comprised a set publicizing the event. The stamps are of 30h, 60h, and 1.60kčs value; the sheet has a face value of 5 kčs. (Scott #1421, Fig. 13).

This concludes our second installment on Souvenir Sheets. Our third and final installment on this fascinating subject will endeavor to make a comparison between souvenir sheets, miniature sheets and stamps with coupons.

-Phillips Freer

Editorial Hinges

THE LOST SPECIALIST

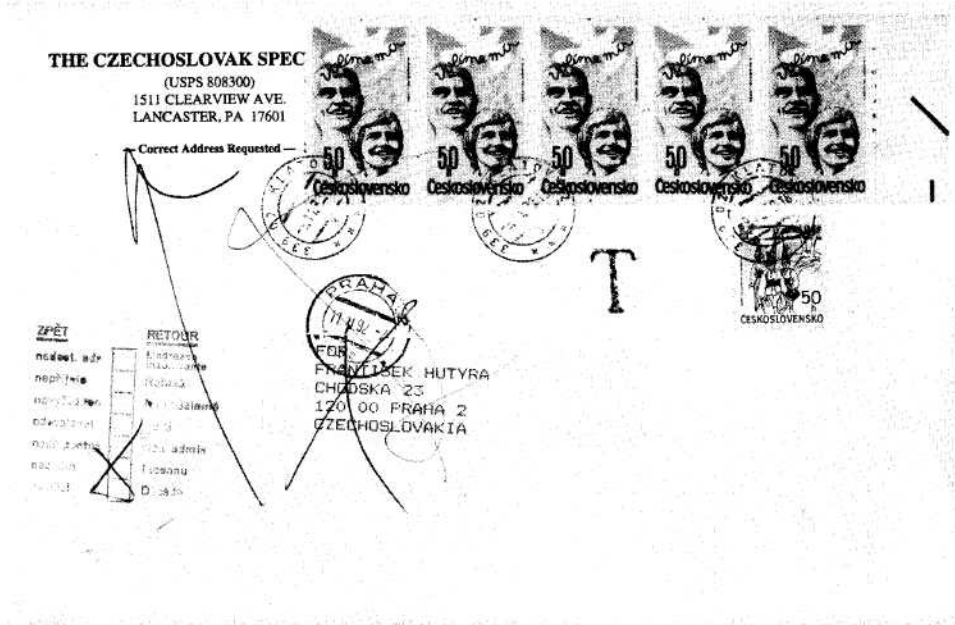
Finding odd covers in dealers' shoe boxes is always an interesting challenge. Getting one in the mail is truly a rarity, particularly when it is our own SPECIALIST.

The Sept/Oct 1992 SPECIALISTS were mailed out to our usual contact in Czechoslovakia for distribution to our overseas members. The specific copy shown in our illustration was addressed to the member at his correct address in Prague. For some unknown reason it was misdirected to Klatov where six 50h postage stamps were affixed thereto for a total mailing cost of 3 kčs. Cancelled at Klatov on Nov. 9, 1992, it was sent to Prague where it was cancelled on Nov. 11. At that point, delivery should have been completed because the address is correct and other SPECIALISTS, both prior and subsequent, have been received there by that member. This copy, however, was marked "Neznám" (Unknown) and returned to the sender. (see illustration).

Several questions arise. First, our contact in Czechoslovakia is not located in Klatov. Therefore, why was the copy sent to Klatov when the address is clearly located in Prague?

Second, could the "Neznám" mark have been placed there at Klatov rather than Prague? Analysis of the three pen marks (the two crosses and the long arrow pointing to the return address) indicates that they were made with the same pen and by the same person. Hence the route of this copy was first our bulk contact, then Klatov, then Prague (where the "Neznám" marking was made), then back to the U.S.

Finally, where was the "T" for "Tax" (postage due) affixed? At Klatov? If so, who paid the 3kčs for the six stamps that were affixed and cancelled there? At Prague? Perhaps, but where is the additional postage? When the copy was returned to the sender, no fee was demanded -



no postage due was collected.

No philatelic gem, this item nevertheless puzzled your editor. Based on the legibility of this illustration, can anyone provide a more plausible or more complete explanation to the routing of this copy and the reasons for the various markings? If so, drop your editor a line.

AND THEN THERE IS THE WRITING CONTEST

On page 7 of the March/April SPECIALIST we announced the inauguration of our Society's first writing contest. At least four months have now elapsed and we regret to report there are only two firm entries with a third possibility as of this printing.

Your editor spoke to one member recently who is qualified to enter this contest. He in essence said, "My English is poor. I am not a philatelic expert. The highest award I ever received was a bronze." Then he paused a while and added, "Besides, there are many more knowledgeable collectors than I am."

This member was groping for excuses. He has a very interesting Topical collection, his English is passable and he has the time to put together the research material necessary for a good competitive article. The ability is there, but the spirit is lacking.

All authors whose articles are regularly published in our journal had to write their first publishable article sometime. Furthermore, almost every article submitted is edited to some degree. Even the most experienced author knows that.

If you are a member, especially a recently admitted member, here is an easy way to start becoming active in the Society. Write an article on your favorite subject in Czechoslovak philately and do not hesitate to submit it into competition. All articles received will be treated in strictest confidence. Only the winner (or winners in case of a tie) will be announced.

The deadline for submission of competitive articles to the editor is Sept. 30. Based on the size of our membership, we had hoped for an affirmative response from ten to twelve members. So far only three have announced their intent to compete. At least six are necessary to make this a viable contest. So please let your editor know that you are one of those who is willing to try.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Vondra:

Can I congratulate you on publishing the Schedule of Postal Rates from 1918 to 1992; something most serious collectors will find invaluable when determining correct rates/weights. I shall certainly keep a copy for my personal use. Of course, as yet, I've not had time to closely study the list but it seems extensive and complete at first glance.

Now, for a moment to your comments on p.9 concerning the "Beetles" stamps (1992). I was surprised to note your claim that "...our copies of this four-stamp set show all four denominations to be in black..." May I suggest that you hold onto them very tightly because they must be unique!

The official colours for the 1Kčs stamp were: black, brown, ochre, grey and yellow; the latter color being employed for the denomination only. I have examined the complete set of full sheets of 50 supplied to me by the Ministry and every 1Kčs stamp denomination is yellow. This also applies to a large number accumulated from various sources, including FDCs. I feel you were slightly 'over the top' with your implication that possibly the printery was up to some 'jiggery-pokery' for collectors' benefit. As far as I am personally aware, the Prague printery has never before been subject to such speculation...but, of course, I could be wrong. The 1Kčs sheet I refer to was printed 26.x1.91 and is numbered 63634.

Now to pp.16/17: (Slovakia Shield denominated "3".) The sheets I have in front of me were printed (obviously by the style of type) in Prague on 4.x11.92 and bear sheet numbers 14481 and 14482. This would appear to confirm your claim regarding their printing source. The only difference of our opinions here would be that I find that the color used for shading the cross was silver (seen under heavy magnification) although I accept that a cursory glance would possibly suggest light-grey as you state. Anyway, that is a minor matter! As regards to the Czech 'Lion' stamp shown on p.15, my three sheets were printed on the 6th and 12th of January.

Sincerely yours,
Alan J. Knight
Editor, CZECHOUT

(Ed. Note-As editor of the official journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Mr. Knight makes some interesting and detailed observations about our comments concerning the Beetles set of stamps. Reference to "our copies" in the article on page 9 of the Mar/Apr issue meant "photocopies" because that is all that was available to us. The photocopies showed the numerals to be black or some very dark color. Yellow would never show up as black on a photocopy. We are certain that if Mr. Knight did have the opportunity to examine an original sheet of those 1k stamp and everyone of those stamps showed the denomination to be yellow, there is nothing left to dispute. We must still wonder how it is possible for a light color such as yellow to show up as a dark-colored denomination on four separate stamps. (see Sept.Oct. 1992 SPECIALIST, page 23.)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Our Society continues to grow and we are again pleased to welcome into our fold the following new members. Membership commences the first day of this year and those who just joined will receive all back issues of the SPECIALIST for this year.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>
1664	Alex F. Sislak 16878 Ferry Road Circle Fairhope, Alabama 36532	1666	Fred Scinto Resurrection College Westmount Rd. North
1665	Frank C. Suda 65 Devil's Boot Lane Marthasville, MO 63357	1667	Canada N2L 3G7 Milos L. Jarolimek 4948 Conway Terrace Fremont, CA 94555

AVAILABLE STAMPS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Slovakia nos. 1 and 2 that we offered to our members in the March/April issue of the SPECIALIST have been received and all orders have been filled. There are still a few left and are available at the prices quoted. In addition, we received several new issues of Slovakia and they are as follows:

1. The 5k Roxomberok and the 10k Košice (regular issue).
2. The 8k St. Jan of Nepomuk.
3. The 2k of the First Slovak President.

These stamps have already arrived and are available, in addition to the nos. 1 and 2, at the following prices:

1. The nos. 1 and 2 \$1.00 per set of two.
2. The 5k and 10k regular issue..... 1.00 for a set of two.
3. The 8k St. Jan of Nepomuk 1.50 for every two.
4. The 2k Slovak President..... 1.00 for every two.

Except for Slovakia no. 2, there are no miniature souvenir sheets among any of these.

If interested, please specify which ones you want and in what quantity, enclosed a stamped self-addressed envelope along with your check payable to the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and mail it to our book sales manager, Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Besides the above stamps, our sales manager also has the following publications available to our members and their friends at these special prices:

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